

# Parentally Placed Private School FAQ

## 1. Do the parentally-placed private school provisions under IDEA 2004 apply to preschool children (ages 3 to preK 5)?

Yes. If a child, age 3 to preK 5, meets the following:

- is determined eligible for services under IDEA
- attends a private school
- the parent does not want the services or placement offered by the LEA, but wants to access only part of the services

If the child meets these criteria, then the child would be considered a parentally-placed private school child and would fall under the parentally-placed private school provisions of the IDEA.

Also, see OSEP publication *OSEP Guidelines on Service to Private School Students*, question 38.  
<http://dese.mo.gov/divspeced/Compliance/Guidance/osepletter.html>

## 2. What about preschool children who are “homeschooled”?

There is no context for "homeschooling" of children under the age of seven (mandatory school attendance age), so the district would have no obligation to consider services for these children under the proportionate share rule. However, the parent could access services through the district's ECSE program.

## 3. How do you determine if a preschool child is attending a private school as opposed to a daycare or childcare?

Most children of this age are attending child care programs, not private schools. To determine if the setting is a school, the following factors should be considered:

### Academic Curriculum

Is there an academic curriculum and is there planned time focused on instruction?

### Staff Qualifications

Do teachers have a certificate in Early Childhood from a State Department approved teacher education program?

Does the site director have a four-year degree in Educational Administration?

### Instruction

Are all of the activities of the program developmentally appropriate and instruction differentiated based on the needs of individual students?

### Early Childhood Learning Standards

Are DESE Early Childhood Learning Standards used in the program?

### Technical Assistance/Professional Development

Does the administrative and instructional staff participate in ongoing Professional Development activities?

### Assessment

Are child assessments conducted to measure progress and to make modifications to the curriculum and instructional strategies?

#### Student/staff ratio

Age 3 to Kindergarten Entry—10/1; 15/2; 20/3 with no more than 20 children in one room.

#### Licensing and Accreditation

Is the program licensed &/or accredited or is it working toward licensing &/or accreditation?

#### Community Perspective

Does the community consider the facility to be a “school” or is it commonly understood that its purpose is for childcare?

#### **4. What private school children are the responsibility of the district?**

The responsibility for provision of services to parentally-placed private school children has shifted from the district of residence to the district in which the private school is located.

Districts are now responsible for evaluating and providing services to children (both resident and non-resident, ages 3-21) attending private schools within the district’s jurisdiction.

#### **5. What if a child lives out of state and attends a private school in Missouri?**

According to information given us by OSEP, the parentally-placed private school provisions of IDEA apply to parentally-placed private school students who reside in one state, but attend a private school in another state. An example would be a student who lives in Illinois, but attends a private school in Cape Girardeau. In this case, Cape Girardeau is responsible for providing services to the child, even though the child is not a Missouri resident.

#### **6. Do preschool children with disabilities in private schools get the same services as preschool children with disabilities enrolled in public schools?**

No. Parentally-placed private school children with disabilities do not have an individual right to services. They are only entitled to such services as have been determined will be provided as a result of the district’s consultation with officials of private schools and representatives of parents of private school children. Any services that will be provided to a private school child are documented on a “Services Plan,” not an IEP.